

THE DISSOLUTION OF THE FELLOWSHIP

for the good of the Church, but which his suspicious mind magnified into a plot against his life. The Bishop of Aquik and six cardinals, including the English Benedictine, Adam Easton, were promptly arrested, and subjected to prolonged tortures under the superintendence of one Basil, a Levantine pirate of Genoese origin, noted for his hatred of the clergy; while Urban himself walked in the garden, reading his breviary aloud, and glutting his ears with their cries. When released from Nocera by Raimondello Orsini and Tommaso da San Severino at the head of a band of foreign mercenaries, the remnants of the army of Louis of Anjou, Urban dragged his prisoners with him. He had the Bishop of Aquik, who was too maimed by torture to follow, butchered by the way, but was compelled to set the English Cardinal at liberty through the intervention of Richard II. The other five he took with him to Genoa in September, and imprisoned them in his house. None of these unfortunate men were ever seen again. When the Pope left Genoa in December, 1386, they were either thrown into the sea, or strangled and buried in quicklime under the stables of the house.¹ The rest of the Sacred College shrank from him in horror, save a few insignificant Neapolitans whom he had recently raised to the purple, but only two, one of whom was the Cardinal of Ravenna already mentioned, actually went over to his rival.

The tragedy of Urban's pontificate ended with his death in the Vatican on October 15, 1389. He who had set out as •a strenuous reformer of the Church, and a friend of the servants of God, thus ended his days in the worst corruption and in sacrilegious bloodshed, detested by all, his authority set at nought even by the Italian powers which acknowledged him as Pope. Creighton puts it to his credit that he refused to purchase the allegiance of Aragon by unworthy means. Madness seems the only possible explanation of the terrible fall of the man in whom Catherine had so passionately believed. One

¹ Dietrich of Nieheim, *De ScAimatf*, I. 50-52, 56, 57, 60, gives a full account of these horrors, which he himself witnessed.